

CRICOS: QLD00244B NSW02225M TEQSA: PRV12081

**HDR Preliminary Thesis Topic Proposal**

This form is to be used by applicants seeking entry to a UniSQ Higher Degree by Research Program.

**Instructions:** This preliminary thesis topic proposal form will need to be discussed and completed in consultation with the proposed Principal Supervisor before applying for acceptance into a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) program. The length of the proposal should be about 4-5 pages. This preliminary thesis topic proposal form establishes a broad framework for the research topic that the student will elaborate on during the provisional candidate period, leading to the submission of a peer-reviewed thesis proposal.

If you have contacted a UniSQ Staff member who has indicated a willingness to supervise the research topic, please have them sign the last page. If no supervisor has been contacted, applications will be returned to you for supervisor sign-off. UniSQ have research topics that you can search and choose from at [Research Thesis Topics](http://webapp.usq.edu.au/research), or you can write your own proposal and search for supervisors in that research area at [Find a UniSQ Expert](http://webapp.usq.edu.au/expertfinder/?keyword=&FORcode=0&FilterContactType=3).

HDR applicationswill be assessed on receipt of all required documentation as outlined in the [Application steps](https://www.usq.edu.au/research/graduate-research-school/future-hdr-students/application)

# Section 1: To be completed by the applicant

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| --- | --- |
| Applicant Name |       |
| Thesis Topic  |       |
| Thesis Topic ID Number (if applicable) |       |
| **Proposed Supervisory Team** |
| Principal  |       | [ ]  Signed (section 2) |
| Associate |       |
| Associate |       |
| Associate |       |
| Associate |       |
| **Academic Load** |
| Are you intending on completing your studies at a full-time or part-time study load? | [ ]  Part-time[ ]  Full-time  |

**Topic Aims:** Present in dot points the key aims and/or research questions of the topic.

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**Topic Significance:** Please provide information on how this topic leads to significant advances in the field of study.

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**Background/ Description of Topic (including key references)**

Please provide a general introduction of the topic; briefly review the current research in the field; highlight your own research experience in this field and any preliminary work that has been conducted on this topic.

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**Proposed Methods**

Outline how you plan to conduct the research. Please provide information on the following issues: access to research laboratories; detail of field work; access to computing facilities other than desktop PC; any possible animal and human ethics clearance.

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**Proposed Timetable and Milestones**

Please summarise your thoughts on how the research would progress over your candidature. The overall plan should be discussed with your proposed Principal Supervisor and a summary provided here. Please add a timeline indicating key dates for your proposed course of study (i.e. Confirmation of Candidature, Data Collection, Data Analysis, and Thesis Submission).

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**Possible funding of Research Activities (required)**

Indicate how the research activities are to be funded, e.g., research grants that will assist the topic. Please include an estimate of the main costs needed to carry out your proposed study, and if this is expected to come from UniSQ, an external funding body, or will be self-funded. Any research costs that go beyond the normal HDR Allocation, will be covered by either the external funding sourced by the student or self-funded.

The topic resources plan will be approved at the Confirmation of Candidature.

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| Signature |       | Date |       |

# Section 2: To be completed by the proposed Principal Supervisor

**Principal Supervisor Declaration (must be a UniSQ employee)**

**By signing this form, you are agreeing to:**

* abide by the supervisory requirements as outlined in the [Higher Degree by Research Supervision and Student Support Procedure](https://policy.usq.edu.au/documents/15859PL)
	+ the Principal Supervisor is responsible for directing the student’s academic work
* supervise the student who submitted the application;
* have spoken with the nominated Associate Supervisor;
* identify the relevant research expertise in the proposed area for each supervisor;
* **resources necessary** for the topic are fully described in the Proposed Funding of Topic Activities (above) and;
* **sufficient resources** and appropriate funding are available for the proposed research
* For International applicants only: confirm that this research project does not provide direct or indirect access to any goods specified under [sanctions regimes](https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/security/sanctions/sanctions-regimes), and that you support this applicant for admission as an HDR candidate

**HDR school / Supervisory Primary/ Secondary affiliation/s**

(Tick all that apply)

|  |  |
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| **School** | **Research Centre, Institute or College affiliation** |
| [ ]  Creative Arts | [ ]  Agriculture and Environmental sciences | [ ]  [Institute for Resilient Regions](https://www.usq.edu.au/research/research-at-usq/institutes-centres/irr) (IRR) [ ]  Rural Economies Centre of Excellence (RECoE) [ ]  Centre for Health Research [ ]  Centre for Heritage and Culture (CHC) |
| [ ]  Business | [ ]  Surveying and Built Environment | [ ]  Institute for Life Sciences and the Environment ( ILSE) [ ]  [Centre for Crop Health](https://www.usq.edu.au/research/research-at-usq/institutes-centres/cch) (CCH) [ ]  [Centre for Applied Climate Science](https://www.usq.edu.au/research/research-at-usq/institutes-centres/icacs) (CACS) [ ]  Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Systems (CSAS) |
| [ ]  Law & Justice | [ ]  Health and Medical Sciences | [ ]  Institute for Advanced Engineering and Space Sciences (IAESS)  [ ]  [Centre for Future Materials](http://www.usq.edu.au/research/research-at-usq/institutes-centres/cfm) (CFM) [ ]  Centre for Astrophysics (CA)  [ ]  Centre for Agricultural Engineering (CAE) |
| [ ]  Education | [ ]  Mathematics, Physics and Computing | [ ]  UniSQ College |
| [ ]  Humanities & Communication | [ ]  Nursing and Midwifery | [ ]  College of First Nations |
| [ ]  Engineering | [ ]  Psychology and Wellbeing |  |

**Special considerations/recommendations for student**

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**Principal Supervisor**

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| Name (Staff ID #) |       | Supervisor load |       % |
| Expertise Rationale1 |       |
| Signature |       | Date |       |

**Nominated Associate Supervisor**

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| 1. **Associate Supervisor**
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| Name  |       | Supervisor load  |       % |
| [ ]  UniSQ Staff[ ]  External Supervisor[[1]](#footnote-2) | (Staff ID #) |        |
| CV attached[[2]](#footnote-3) | [ ]  |
| Expertise Rationale[[3]](#footnote-4) |       |
| 1. **Associate Supervisor**
 |
| Name  |       | Supervisor load  |       % |
| [ ]  UniSQ Staff[ ]  External Supervisor | (Staff ID #) |        |
| CV attached  | [ ]  |
| Expertise Rationale |       |
| 1. **Associate Supervisor**
 |
| Name  |       | Supervisor load  |       % |
| [ ]  UniSQ Staff[ ]  External Supervisor | (Staff ID #) |        |
| CV attached  | [ ]  |
| Expertise Rationale |       |
| 1. **Associate Supervisor**
 |
| Name  |       | Supervisor load  |       % |
| [ ]  UniSQ Staff[ ]  External Supervisor | (Staff ID #) |        |
| CV attached | [ ]  |
| Expertise Rationale |       |

# **Section 3: To be completed by Head of School/Centre Director for Nominee**

**School/Centre Recommendation:**

I confirm that appropriate workload for supervisors and equipment has been allocated.

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| **Head of School/Centre Director or Nominee** |
| **Name** |       |
| **Signature** |       | **Date** |

1. If nominated Associate Supervisor are not a UniSQ employee, a full CV will be required. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. CV attachments are required for external supervisors only [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. A brief (~50 word) rationale of suitability and field expertise as per section 4.3 of the [HDR Supervision Procedure](https://policy.usq.edu.au/documents/15859PL) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)